

REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated July 12, 2005, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

Note is particularly taken of the comment presented at the bottom of page 4 of the Action, relating to a feature of the invention that is asserted to not to be present in the claims.

Record is also made of a brief telephone conversation held with the Examiner on September 1, 2005. During that conversation, the Examiner indicated that inclusion of the feature referred to at the bottom of page 4 of the Action in claim 1 would appear to overcome the present prior art rejection.

Accordingly, by the present submission, claim 1 has been amended to include positive recitations that the applicator includes a stem and that the second end of the reinforcing element, where each of the flights has a free end, is connected to the stem. Attention is also directed to claim 4, which depends from claim 1, and which specifies that the first ends of the flights are engaged together by a rounded portion.

In view of these amendments, it is submitted that claim 1 clearly distinguishes patentably over the cited references, for reasons presented in the amendment dated

Appln. No. 10/601,878
Amdt. dated October 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 12, 2005

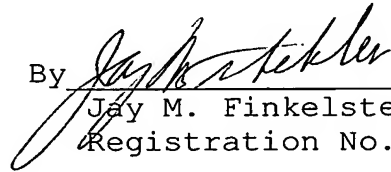
April 29, 2005, and it is therefore requested that the
rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn and that the
Application now be allowed.

If the above amendment should not now place the
application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is
invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining
issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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